

William H. Winterton, Ern Webb, Dave Jones, John E. Webster, Frank North and John Hartle.

Mr. Winterton recalled some experiences of the band when he wrote:

"The 4th and 24th of July were the main days of the year for our band. We would get our horses ready on the day before. We would wet and braid their manes and leave them all night. The next morning we would undo the braids, brush them out and they would be nice and curly. Then we would hitch them to a wagon and start to serenade the town. When we would stop to play a tune or sing a song, the horses would stand very still and throw their ears ahead, as though they understood."

Charleston residents would always have cold drinks or treats on hand for members of the band as they traveled around the community.

Shortly before the turn of the century, the Charleston Brass Band was organized, and included as members Fred and Mironi Winterton, John and Steve Simmons, Eliza Wright, John Bates, Fred Daybell, Frank Webster, Claud Murdock, and Clifford Madsen. For many years the band played for all the dances in town, and gave many concerts throughout the valley.

The community celebrations on special holidays made lasting impressions on those who participated, as is evidenced by the excerpt from a book, *An Introduction to the Theatre*, written by a native Charleston



Some of Charleston's young ladies pictured about 1897. Shown are, top row, left to right, Maud Simmons, Mary Murdoch, Emma Casper, Milla Pauley, Sadie Brown, Marie North and Jessie B. Fowers. Second row, Marie Hawks, Nina Wright, Sara Murdoch. Bottom row, Susan Webster, Belle Price, Jessie Murdoch and Phoebe Daybell.

son, Dr. Frank M. Whiting, professor of speech and theatre arts at the University of Minnesota. In this book, Dr. Whiting recorded the following:

I have always imagined that the great holiday spirit in which plays were performed was somehow related to the spirit with which my own home town celebrated the Fourth of July in the days before automobiles, oiled roads and radio made such celebrations too troublesome and old-fashioned. I realize that my memory has surrounded the whole experience with a halo, for it now seems that the weather was always perfect, and that the valley with its river and background of mountains assumed a special beauty in honor of the occasion. There were weeks of planning and preparation. Then came the great day itself, which began officially at sunrise with cannonading. First came the parade with the grand marshal riding with such dignity that it was hard to believe that he (like everyone else) was one of our neighbors. Then came the mounted color guard followed by the band—not a hired band or a truck wired to play phonograph records—but a band led by the school principal and made up of farmers, ranchers, local merchants, and others who somehow, in addition to all their regular work, had found time to practice at booting a brass horn or clamping a drum. There were clowns, also, and, of course

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the numerous patriotic floats—mostly hay wagons transformed by eager energy into tableaux of various patriotic themes.

So the day began and so it continued through the orations, songs and band music that made up the morning outdoor program, through the afternoon sports climaxed by the annual baseball game between single and married men, and finally into the evening dance—the highlight of the day for the young couples, but an anticlimax to tired, sticky children now beginning to sag to sleep on benches or on the laps of weary mothers. The day stretched from dawn to midnight. Everyone came and stayed to the end."

In recent years, to revive an appreciation for community participation holidays, the Mutual Improvement Associations of Charleston have renewed the July 24th celebration, including the cannonading in the early morning, a program, lunch stands, miniature parade, racing and other games for children and fireworks in the evening.

Dramatics in Charleston has also been a good source of community entertainment for many years, particularly in the days before automobiles could carry people rapidly to other areas for shows or excitement.

From the day the first settlers set up their cabins they grouped to-

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(bro. to Wayne Whiting).
Now lives in
SECU

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